

Henry Bromfield Esq;  
Harvard  
1798

1798

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Dr. WALTER's

# DISCOURSE

BEFORE THE

## HUMANE SOCIETY.

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*AT a Semi-annual Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY,  
of the COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, June 12, 1798.*

*VOTED, That the first VICE PRESIDENT, second VICE-PRESIDENT, Rev. Dr. BARNARD, Hon. Judge PINE, and the Rev. Dr. PARKER, be a Committee to wait upon the Rev. Dr. WALTER, and to return him the thanks of this Society, for his elegant and ingenious Discourse delivered this day, and to request of him a copy for the Press.*

*An Extract from the Minutes*

*of the Humane Society,*

**JOHN AVERY, Record'g Secretary.**

A  
D I S C O U R S E  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
AT THE SEMIANNUAL MEETING

TWELFTH OF JUNE, 1798.

BY WILLIAM WALTER, D.D.  
RECTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH IN BOSTON.



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B O S T O N:  
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TO  
THE VICE-PRESIDENTS,  
THE TRUSTEES,  
AND  
MEMBERS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY,  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
THIS DISCOURSE  
IS  
WITH DIFFIDENCE SUBMITTED,  
BY THEIR AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,  
AND VERY FAITHFUL SERVANT,  
WILLIAM WALTER,



## A DISCOURSE.

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GALATIANS vi. 9.

*Let us not be weary in Well-doing.*

THE Weakness and Imperfection of the human Mind is not more visible in those vain and trifling Objects which Men too commonly pursue, than in the Ease with which, while prosecuting the best, they yield to Opposition and sink under the Pressure of Difficulties. While the Wisdom and the Goodness of GOD are abundantly manifested as well in revealing to Men the great Objects deserving their Attention, as in those gracious Promises and kind Invitations which fill the sacred Volumes, and are intended as Checks to this succumbing Disposition, and as Incentives to Diligence and Perseverance in Duty. Among those, that which I have now read to you, is not the least considerable, nor the least applicable to a Society like that before which I have now the Honor to stand.

You

YOU will then permit me to enlarge a little on those active Scenes of Life, in which the Man and the Christian should be engaged :

THE Difficulties which he may probably expect to meet with in the Way :

AND the many Encouragements by which he is animated to rise superior to them, and if possible to reach the desired Goal.

IN ascertaining what belongs to Man, we must endeavour to investigate the Design of the Creator in his original Formation ; for clearly, to pursue that Design must be right.

WHEN we contemplate the Great First Cause, if Dust and Ashes may be allowed to lift its trembling Views to an Height so transcendent, an Object of Majesty is presented to the Mind, infinite in all the essential Attributes of Wisdom, Goodness and Power, inhabiting Eternity, and complete in Self-Enjoyment. To such a perfect Cause no conceivable Reason can be assigned for calling into Existence any intelligent Being, or Order of Intellectuals, but to communicate to them a Portion of that Happiness which dwells consummate in Himself ; for who can add to that which is infinite ? Can Man be profitable to his Maker ? Man, whose very Existence is an Indulgence ! Or, can the Angels bring any Acceſſion of Glory to Him, when he charges their Wisdom with Folly, and declares that their best Services, like the Heaven in which they dwell, are not pure in his Sight ?

ON this Ground let us suppose the Infinite Mind forming in the Operations of his own Wisdom, the beneficent Decree, that the whole Extent

Extent of Space shall be filled with Creatures of Intelligence ; and behold, the heavenly World is stored with *Spirits* knowing their Maker's Will, and subject to a Law : Cherubim and Seraphim, Angels and Archangels, Principalities and Powers, stand forth conspicuous, of various Grades of Excellence, forming a Chain of Intelligents, from the highest Seraph to the humblest Spirit:

WILLING to proceed the Decree is past, and Spirit shall be allied to Flesh. Beings incapable of subsisting in pure Æther, shall have Habitations suitable, and well furnished for their Residence. He speaks, and behold ! those Suns which appear so magnificent in the great Concave, instantly exist ; Suns which the Eye of an *Herschel* or a *Newton*, assisted by their best telescopic Glasses, is unable to number : He commands, and behold ! those Suns are surrounded with Planets, and their concomitant Satellites; prepared with all the Accommodations for embodied Spirits. It is not improbable that the Inhabitants of those countless Worlds which roll incessantly around their central Fires, forming Systems beyond Systems, are endued with different Degrees of Intellect, and different Modes of attaining that Happiness for which they were made. We may not set Bounds to that which is Infinite. And the greater the Variety, the more astonishing is that Wisdom, and the higher in our Estimation does the Character rise of HIM who is the Maker and the equal Governor of them All.

PURSUING this train of Thought, let us turn our Attention to the *Globe*, which is destined by the allwise Creator, to be the Residence of *Man* ; and also to *Man himself*, the illustrious though temporary Inhabitant thereof ; for here we leave the Regions of Conjecture or very imperfect Information, and have Experience, authentic History, or Revelation for our Guide.

POWER infinite enters into the very Idea of Creation ; for nothing short of the infinite Divine Word could give Existence visible to that which once was not. And our best Conceptions of a World effected by infinite Power, suggested by infinite Goodness, and directed by infinite Wisdom, would be one where Population and Enjoyment would go hand in hand ; where Soil would be productive ; Climate mild ; and the alternate Returns of Light and Darkness so nearly equal, as to afford a suitable Time both for Labour and Rest.

THAT such was our Earth in its original Construction we may probably infer, partly from its present State, and partly from those various Appearances which are no otherwise to be accounted for, than by acknowledging that it has undergone some most violent Concussion, when the Fountains of the great Deep were broken up, when the Land was *here* piled into Mountains which mock the Skies, leaving *there* an immense Void to be covered over by the mighty Waters of the Pacific, the Indian, and the Atlantic Oceans ; and such a Cast of Axis as to give in some Parts of the Earth, a most unfriendly Alternation of Night and Day, and such an Extreme of Cold and Heat, as to render almost, if not altogether uninhabitable the frozen Regions of the Polar Circles, and the arid Sands of the Arabian Desert : as if intended by Divine Providence that we should have perpetually present to our Senses those strong Marks of our Maker's Anger, for the Transgressions of our Forefathers, that we, their Children, might be thereby restrained from their Offences, and be held, through Fear of similar Displeasure, in the strait and humble Walks of entire Obedience.

LET us next turn our Thoughts to Man himself : and what will be our Ideas of a Spirit formed for Happiness, and destined by infinite Wisdom

Wisdom to find it in a Vehicle of Flesh, and in a World like that which we have described ; we should expect to find him possessed of a Mind large and capacious to contemplate his Maker and his Works, to know his Will, to adore his Excellence, and with Pleasure to serve him. Possessing Affections warm and generous to every Individual of his own Species, delighting in their Conversation, and rejoicing in their Prosperity as in his own ; with Appetites and Passions well directed, and resting in that Point where Nature had formed the Limits of just Gratification.. In his domestic Character we should expect to see him exhibiting the venerable Wisdom of a Patriarch, with all the tender Charities so strongly claimed by the endearing Relations of Husband; Parent, Friend.---Unite these happy Families and you have Societies of smaller and of larger Size, where one Language, one Religion, the Love of God and of Mankind ; one Interest, the Good of all, prevail : thus forming a little Heaven on Earth, emblematical of, and preparative to, that more glorious Heaven above, into which they would be, in their several Generations, like Enoch and Elijah, successively translated.

SUCH are our Ideas of human Perfection, and such we have authentic Testimony that he was, for so we are expressly told, *God made Man upright ; God created Man after his own Image* : Expressions clearly declarative of perfect Rectitude in all his Powers. But alas ! where shall we find the Original of this Picture ? the Portrait charms, but where is the Man ? where is the Nation, the lovely Union of such happy Families ? If we look into our own Bosoms are they not torn with conflicting Passions ? Is there not a perpetual Warfare between the Spirit and the Flesh ? Are we not all sensible of that melancholly Truth deliver'd by St. Paul, *When I would do good, Evil is present with me.*

IF you go forth in search of this admired Character, is not each Man you meet a Cabinet of Secrets closely locked, as if harbouring Suspicions by you meditated against him, or studious to conceal the Advantage which he proposes to take of you ?

LET us look into Families, and how often do we find the Members; through Decency, smothering the Dislikes which prevail among them, or openly contending, and finally separating ?—Would we look for Nations united on this broad Plan of Brotherhood and Happiness ; cross but the nearest Ocean, and you are stopt on your first landing : a Babel is presented ; their Speech is strange; their Language is not understood : you ask for Bread and they give you a Stone. Turn to any other Quarter, and the same Scene presents itself. Will you take an Interpreter, or ask for some impartial Volume to give you the History of that Nation, and the other Nations of the Earth, and what are the Contents, but the Narration of Civil Contests and everlasting Wars, the Effects of vile Avarice or viler Jealousy, proud Ambition; black Malice, or insatiable Revenge ? interspersed indeed with a few Years of Rest from this horrid Work of Desolation, which is called *Peace*, but is only an *Armistice*, a Cessation from Hostilities, to gather Strength for some future Contest, a Calm dreadfully foreboding another and more furious Storm.

THE Shades of this Night-Piece are indeed happily relieved with an Effusion of Light; some beautiful Contrasts, some prominent Figures of Religion, Literature and Humanity, whose Writings, and whose Labours of Love, are sufficient to compensate for the Evils which we have detailed. As in the Ruins of some ancient City, we are able from what remains, to trace out its former Limits, the Grandeur

deur of its Buildings, the Riches and architectural Knowledge of its Founder ; so here, by these happy Reliefs on a deep dark Ground, we are instructed, that though Man is degraded, he is not forsaken : if he is not what he once was, yet we see what by divine Grace he may be, and are brought to acknowledge that Righteousness hath looked down from Heaven, and that Goodness and mercy do still follow him.

BUT how are we to account for this Degradation, this partial Enjoyment, this Abounding of Evil ?—*Whence the Origin of Evil*, how these Shades should have obtained an Entrance into this fair Creation, is a Question that has puzzled the acuteſt Philosophers that the World has ever produced, and has distressed many worthy Minds.—While they have acknowledged and bewailed the Effect, they have been at a loss to discover the Cause. That infinite Power might have prevented it, must be allowed, or it must be allowed that there is in Nature a Power superior to infinite, which is absurd : that it must have been admitted by *Permission of God*, is therefore evident. But why ? Is it consistent with infinite Goodness to create a World in which Evil exists in ten thousand Forms ? Is it possible to adjust this with the Idea of a Place and a Race of Beings destined for Happiness ? Clouds and Darkness rest upon this Subject when viewed by the Light of unassisted Reason. But Reason, enlightened by Revelation, adopts the Conclusion of the great English Moralist,\* “*Moral Evil* is of Man, is occasioned by Free Will, which implies unneceſſitated Choice ; necessary Choice would make Man a Machine : *Natural Evil* is of GOD, and is the Conſequence of moral,—for Correction ; but with all the Evil that there is, no Man but would rather be a Free Agent, than a mere Machine without the Evil ; and what is best for each Individual, must be best for the Whole.”

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\* Dr. Samuel Johnson. See also Fletcher, Vol. v. p. 18.

IN all Governments and in all Worlds, that is deemed good, where there is a Predominance of Enjoyment. I therefore add, there is no Man, who possesses his mental Faculties undisturbed, but will acknowledge that he has so much Happiness, though surrounded with great Distress, that he had rather remain in his present Situation, than to drop into a State where he must lose the Enjoyment which he now has. And if the Happiness of each Individual is such, then the Mass of Happiness in the World must be superior to the Mass of Misery, and then both the Goodness of GOD, and the System of prevailing Happiness is vindicated.

THE only Objection to this Doctrine is, that in a Plan of infinite Perfection, we should expect to find the greater Share of Happiness uniformly attached to the greater Share of Virtue, and of Misery to Vice, but that we do not find it thus proportioned.

I ANSWER,—In the first place we are very incompetent Judges of our own Happiness, seldom judging rightly between real and imaginary Evil ; much less of others. We are apt to judge those happy who roll in affluence and stand in elevated stations, but we know not the Arrows which rankle in the great Man's side, nor the Thorns with which his pillow is transfixed : and so of Misery, we are prone to think those wretched who dwell in Hovels, and whose tattered Raiment is scarce sufficient to guard them from the Frost ; not considering that beneath this unpromising exterior there may be a Firmness of Constitution which defies the Cold ; a Keeness of Appetite which makes sweet the mouldy Crust ; and an internal Enjoyment which the Wealth of both Indies cannot purchase. But let us suppose the worst, that good and evil are very unequally distributed among the children of men, what is the Consequence ? Not that the Ways of GOD are unequal,

unequal, or that there is not upon Earth a Predominancy of Good, but that the present world is not the whole of human existence, but a part only ; and that there awaits us another and eternal state, where all these irregularities shall be duly adjusted, wherein oppressed virtue shall be amply rewarded, and vice however exalted here, shall be most certainly punished. This is faintly adumbrated in the heathen Mythology ; is perfectly consonant to our best internal sentiments ; and is verified by the Christian Revelation, that divine Religion which, arrayed in white and holy vesture, came down from above ; which presents herself to every man coming into the world, and only asks to be embraced, to enlarge his Capacity and to increase his Stores of Happiness : a Declaration which has been justified by the experience of thousands, and thousand thousands of her Children.

'NOTWITHSTANDING which, horrid to relate ! there are who by every Art endeavour to blacken and destroy it : who call it a Monster generated by Pride on Interest ; the foulest of Superstitions whose every vestige ought to be swept away. But thanks to our GOD, the great Promise stands, that though wounded it shall not fall, though bitterly assailed *the Gates of Hell shall never prevail against it.* Others there are not quite so violent, who are willing to admit its Right of Existence in common with other Religions, yet can see little to render it worthy of *general Acceptance.* To these the excellent PALEY \* well observes, "Had Jesus Christ delivered no other Declaration than the following,—*the Hour is coming in which all who are in the Grave shall hear his Voice, and shall come forth--they that have done well to the Resurrection of Life, and they that have done Evil unto the Resurrection of Damnation.*"—He had pronounced a Message of inestimable Importance, and well worthy of that splendid Apparatus of Prophecy

\* Archdeacon of Carlisle. Book v. ch. 9.

Prophecy and Miracles with which his Mission is introduced and attested :—a Message in which the wisest of Mankind would rejoice to find an Answer to their Doubts, and Rest to their Inquiries. It is idle to say that a Future State had been discovered already. It had been discovered as the Copernican System was : It was one Guess among many. He alone discovers who *proves*, and no man can prove this point, but the Teacher who testifies by *Miracles* that this Doctrine comes from *GOD*."

ALL this is Truth, great and important Truth : but had the blessed Jesus delivered no other Message than this, we should still have been left in a state of extreme Perplexity : We must have gone back to the Wanderings of our own Minds, to the uncertain Conclusions of our imperfect Reason to be determined concerning that *Well-doing* to which is annexed the Promise of a *Resurrection unto Life* ; and our Inquiries after the *Means* would probably have been as multifarious and contradictory as were formerly our Researches after the *End*. But as He came to inform us not only of a Resurrection of the Body and a Life to come, but also to communicate to us the whole Will of *GOD* ; and the Communication of that Will was entered upon Record ; and that Record is by the Providence of *GOD* transmitted to us ; we have only to open the sacred Volume, and what we there read to practice. The Lessons there inserted are addressed to men in their *individual*, their *social* and their *religious* capacities.

As Individuals, the Directions to us are to be temperate and pure,  
*Blessed are the pure in Heart for they shall see God.*

As Members of Society, the Instructions are to be just and merciful,  
*Blessed are the Merciful for they shall obtain Mercy.*

IN our religious Capacity or as Beings capable of holding Communion with GOD, we are directed to be fervent in Spirit, *Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after Righteousness.*

IT is not enough that we have fulfilled the former Duties, we must add this as the Crown of our moral Character. CHRIST IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ; to him should our strong Desires be ; his Image should be deeply engraven on the Heart of every Disciple, and his Image is Love, Love to GOD and Love to Men. Tho' walking on Earth his Mind was in Heaven : his chief Desire was to bring Honor to his Father, to do his Father's Work. And all his Miracles of Love he ascribes to the Power and the Grace of GOD ; and thus he glorified his Father in Heaven. But though his Mind was in Heaven, his Feet lightly rested upon Earth, and he went about doing good ; good to the Souls and the Bodies of Men, instructing the Ignorant, reclaiming the Vicious, giving Bread to the Hungry, and Consolation to the Mourners. This was *well done*. Thus passed his Hours, those bright and splendid Hours, in one only of which Astonishment seizes the Mind while we read the variety and the number of his miraculous Exertions. *In that same Hour*, says the Historian of his Life, in the presence of the Messengers of John, *he cured many of their Infirmities, and Plagues, and evil Spirits* ; *go your way now*, said Jesus answering, *and tell John what Things ye have heard, and seen—how that the Blind see, the Lame walk, the Lepers are cleansed, the Deaf hear, the Dead are raised, and to the Poor the Gospel is preached.* What an Hour !—Thus doing he diffused Joy through Heaven as well as Earth, and received the Approbation of the glorious GOD in Words mild but energetic ; a Voice from Heaven was heard, *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear him.*

IN relieving the Miseries of Men, increasing the Quantity of Happiness upon Earth, and in bringing Glory to GOD, consisted the continual Business of that short Life which he passed among Men.— His Path, like the dawning of the material Sun, growing brighter and brighter unto the perfect Day, on which, having given himself a Sacrifice for Men, a Sacrifice of Atonement for the Sins of the whole World, he ascended to the Right Hand of his Father in the World of Glory.

BLESSED and forever blessed be his reverend and Holy Name !

IN the Imitation therefore of all the imitable parts of his Character, by aiming to lessen the Quantity of Evil, and to enhance the Portion of Happiness among Men ; and ascribing both the Will and the Power of doing it to the Riches of the Grace of GOD, consists the Great Business of *Well-doing*. While employed in these delightful Occupations we are treading in the Steps of the divine Redeemer, we are fulfilling the Will of our Maker, we are engaged in the same Business as himself, we are Followers of GOD, and Fellow-Workers with him.

IT is matter of high Satisfaction, my respected Hearers, when I look around me to perceive that on all these Accounts I stand on Christian Ground, and am surrounded by the Friends of the benevolent Messiah. If I am asked, where are the Testimonials of your Zeal for GOD ? I answer, in the free Publication and very general Adoption of the Sacred Volumes ; in the Observation of the Sabbath ; in the various Schools and Seminaries of Learning, where our Youth are instructed in the Principles of Virtue and Piety ; and in those numerous Edifices which are at once the Ornaments of our Cities,

Cities, and afford convenient Places of assembling, both stated and occasional, for the Worship of our GOD.—If I am questioned where are the Evidences of your Regard for Men, for the Poor and the Distressed? Let me lead the Inquirer to those Buildings purposely erected by our venerable Ancestors for reclaiming the Idle and Vicious, and for affording an Asylum to the Aged and the Diseased, whose Circumstances will no longer enable them to support an Independency of Station, but compel them to ask the Protection of the Public; and to solicit those Benefactions which they once bestowed.

THESE have been uniformly supported at an heavy Expence, but cheerfully defrayed by the Municipality at large. And though great Complaints have been made, and perhaps with Justice, of the Inadequacy of the Buildings to the Numbers soliciting Admission; yet must it be confessed, that great Good has been effected by them; and with Pleasure we look forward to the Time, and at no great distance, when, upon a Scite more favorable, already purchased, Buildings every way worthy of this ancient and respected Town, will be constructed for this public and beneficent Purpose.

LET us go next to those more limited Charities, the Massachusetts; the Scots, the Episcopal charitable Societies; the Marine, the Mechanic, the various Masonic Societies; all formed upon this same benevolent Plan, that of affording Relief to the Indigent of certain Descriptions, and great is the Number which are thereby annually relieved, whose Hearts do thus exult and sing aloud for Joy.

NOR let me pass unnoticed, one which has been recently established for the Purpose of dispensing gratuitously, Medicine and

Aliment, and Medical Advice ; which promises to be of great public Utility, and of course is most honorary to its Founders and its Members.

**AGRICULTURE**, which stands foremost among the Arts, whose Exercise is Health, and whose Fruits are Plenty and Wealth, and Independence, finds here a Society whose Object is, at their own Expense, to collect from every Quarter, the best Information upon the Subject, and freely to point out to our young Farmers the Errors of our present Husbandry ; to shew them a better Mode of Cultivation, and of rural Cœconomy ; and thus how to turn their Labour to their own greatest Emolument and the Benefit of the Publick.—A most useful Charity this, in a Country like ours, just emerging from its native Wildness, and which has already effected Changes the most valuable and important.

THE Element of Fire, so useful to all the Arts, so necessary to the rendering of our Apartments comfortable in the dreary Season of Winter, and for all culinary Purposes; sometimes thro' Carelessness or by mere Accident, suddenly bursts forth and bids Defiance to Opposition, till it has laid waste the Dwelling of some deserving Family, and reduced perhaps to Penury, a Parent and his Children who lately lived at Ease. To guard against this Evil, two Societies are incorporated for equalizing such Losses at a moderate Premium by Insurance ; and another to compensate in some Measure the *more indigent* Sufferers, and to place them again in Circumstances to pursue, without Anxiety, their former Occupations.

ANOTHER Element, whose Uses are so various for the Cleanliness, the Health, and the Comforts of Mankind, that our loudest Elogiums fall

fall vastly short of its real Value. Yet even this may become the Occasion of deep Suffering and of Death.—How often are Boats, in passing Rivers or some Arm of the Sea, unhappily overturned ? How often does the industrious Labourer fall from Shipping and from Wharves, and Children into smaller Collections of Water, and are suffocated ? but if timely extracted and judiciously treated, that Animation which was suspended may be restored, and many valuable Lives given back to Society and their Friends.—Or when the Mariner, long absent from his Family and Home, is returning from a distant Voyage, ; the Canvas swells—the Mountains lift their well-known Summits in the far-distant Horizon, Imagination places him in Safety upon Land ; and already in Idea he embraces all that he holds most dear ;—when, suddenly, the Winds veer round ; Clouds fill the Firmament ;—the Tempest rages ;—the Cold increases ;—Night comes on,—the Waves rise tremendous ;—his Ship is water-logged ;—the Helm is useless ;—the Breakers are around him ;—he prays for Help, but there is none to hear ;—he drops his Anchors, but they refuse to hold ;—the Rocks receive him ;—and with the Wreck the Crew is cast upon a naked Shore, perhaps covered with Fields of Ice. A Part perish, and a Part are just able to creep beyond the reach of those Billows which roar furiously and threaten to bring them again into Jeopardy. And they must at last yield to Fatigue, and Cold, and want of that Nourishment which if attainable they might still live.

To afford Relief in these trying Cases is that Society formed which is here assembled, and whose Worth wants no Encomiaſt.—By your judicious Publications, pointing out the best Methods of restoring Animation to Persons, by Suffocation, apparently dead ;

by

by erecting small Huts on the most desolate and dangerous Coasts, and supplying them with the Materials which the Ship-wrecked Mariner most needs, to guard what remains of Life, to warm his shivering Limbs, to cheer his Spirits, and to heal his Wounds ; and also by suitable Donations to encourage the Exertions of Spectators, and those who are near at hand ; by these Methods much has been done ; and from the respectable Characters of our presiding Officers, the Trustees, and other Members of this Society, much, we may assuredly predict, will yet be done in promoting and effecting the great Plan of Humanity, the godlike Plan of universal Happiness.

HAPPY Columbia, on whose Shores these valuable Institutions have thus early found a place ! for you they shall erect 'a Barrier more stupendous than Alps or Apennines ; for you they shall secure the Protection of that Providence which is a Refuge from every Blast, a safe Shelter from every Storm. Uplifted on their Wings, your Fame shall reach the Regions which the Sun *first* visits and the *last* : they shall do more, they shall exalt thine Honors to the Throne of Heaven, for they are such as the recording Angel delights to mark upon the Pages of Eternity.

BUT notwithstanding these just and favorable Positions, we hear it said that these Institutions are rather for Ostentation\* than for real Use ; to adorn some annual Calendar, or swell the Pages of some modern Gazetteer ; that they originate in Pride not Benevolence ; that Numbers are enlisted to advance a Few ; that the Good which is done is engrossed by those ; and that after all, much is affirmed or promised,

\* Videri non fieri.

promised, and but little effected. At Scoffs like these many amiable but timid Minds are alarmed, and through fear of being wounded by the Shafts of Slander, they either refuse to join us, or they quit the Field and withdraw into Retirement. But should they not consider, that all Societies from the very Nature of them are public, and, like Cities upon Hills, cannot be concealed. And as Numbers cannot suddenly and so often be convened as occasion may require, for the Whole to delegate to a Few, the Power of transacting the Concerns of the Whole during the Seasons of its Separation, has ever been found salutary and wise; and where the Object of the Society is general or partial Good, and the Trustees are willing to give their Time and Attendance, without any other Reward than the Approbation of their Constituents and their own Breasts, the Arrows of Malevolence fall harmless, and Honor will attach itself to them, whether their Exertions are less or more productive of the Benefit intended.

BUT what is chiefly to be lamented, the *General Association*, when they find their Good continues to be Evil spoken of ; when their best Communications are not attended to ; when they find their little Repositories for the Relief and Comfort of the Ship-wrecked are purloined by the Thoughtless, the Unfeeling and the Avaricious ; and in Truth, that the Benefit does not fully equalize their first sanguine Expectations, their Magnanimity fails them, their Zeal degenerates to Lukewarmness, they are faint while pursuing, and are in danger of becoming altogether weary of the Pursuit.

BUT, my most worthy Friends, are there not through all the Depths of Reason and Religion, through all the Range of Earth and Heaven, Inducements to be found sufficient to balance these Obstacles, to  
check

check these Despondencies, to animate us to manly Perseverance, and to carry us on to final Victory and Triumph ? Is it not the Voice of Nature, is it not the Command of Inspiration that, as we have Opportunity, we should do Good unto all Men ? Have we not in the Great Head of our Religion a strong Example of this beneficent persevering Spirit ? Is there not a sweet Consolation to the Mind in reflecting that, though little Good has been effected by us, it was all that our best Exertions could procure. Is there not a Spring of Joy resulting from the Hope that more may yet be done ? and is not our own Happiness increased by making others happy ?

SYMPATHY is one of the best Principles of our Nature. Do we not enter with Eagerness into the Distresses of those who have just received the Information that a dear Relative or valuable Friend is lost, or in imminent Danger ? do we not wish it were in our Power to bring back the Spirit that is, to all Appearances, fled ? do we not watch, with an Anxiety not to be described, the Exertions that are making to restore Warmth to the cold Body, and Respiration to the breathless Corps ? And if the Efforts succeed, with what Exultation do we meet the opening Sight, and give back to the Parent a darling Child, to the Wife a beloved Husband. Think, what were the Raptures of the Widow of *Serepta* when Elijah restored her Son ? What were the Sensations of the Widow of *Nain* when the Divine Redeemer stopt the Bier, and bid the young Man awake, and the frantic Mother receive her only Son ? What were the Exultations of Mary and Martha when the same God-Man commanded the Stone to be rolled from the Mouth of the Tomb, and bid *Lazarus* come forth, and join his weeping Sisters ? Joys similar to these you have often witnessed ; and probably will many more. And is not

not this a Reward amply sufficient for all the Wealth\* and Labour that you have hitherto expended; or may yet expend.

WERE the Dead permitted to return, could the Shades of our departed Friends appear, the Shades of *Bowdoin, Russell, Mason, Clarke,* could they speak, would they direct us to break the Chains of our Union, and suspend our Work, or, would they not rather say to us, in Accents sweet as the Notes of Angels, “ Cease not, ye Friends of “ Humanity, from the Employment which we loved ; they are “ approved of Heaven ; they gladden the delightful Regions where “ we dwell ; they fill with Incense the Mansions which the Re-“ deemer is preparing for his Friends.”

IF we are, as the Oracles of Truth attest, the Objects of Angelic Attention ; if Angels are commanded to encamp around us, and the heavenly Hosts are *ministering Spirits to the Heirs of Salvation* ; in what Services can we be employed more agreeable to them, than in guarding our Fellow-men against Evils similar to those in which they are engaged while protecting us ?—And if there is Joy in Heaven over one Sinner that repents, what must be your Joy in restoring Numbers to a new Probation, to further Opportunities of listening to the Calls of Heaven, and making their Election sure ?

What

- \* “ But for one End, one much neglected Use,
- “ Are Riches worth your Care : (for Nature’s Wants
- “ Are few and without Opulence supplied.)
- “ This Noble End is, to produce the Soul ;
- “ To shew the Virtues in their fairest Light,
- “ To make Humanity the Minister
- “ Of bounteous Providence ; and teach the Breast
- “ That generous Luxury the Gods enjoy.”

What, unless it be the Raptures of that last Great Scene, when the Heavens, like a Scroll, shall roll away ; the Earth and the Sea give up their Dead ; when the Almighty Judge shall descend beneath the Banners of the Cross, and all Nations shall be assembled before him ; when you shall behold, from amidst this mighty Concourse, those whom you have been instrumental in recovering to a second Life, and who have improved that second Trial to the Approbation of their Saviour God ; when you shall see them with expanded Hands, advancing towards you, with Language of this sort upon their Tongues, “ These are the Men, these the Friends to whom we were indebted and were not able to repay their Kindness ; these are the Men to whose Humanity we were when dead indebted, under GOD, for a second Existence, when in danger of Death, for Safety, for Comfort, and for Happiness.”

WHAT must be your Joy, when the benevolent Judge rising from his Seat shall say, “ Well done good and faithful Servants, because you have rendered these Services unto the least of these my Brethren, you have done them unto me : Come to the Kingdom prepared for you : Enter ye into the Joy of your Lord.”

Let us, then, not be weary in Well-doing. Yea rather, Be ye steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord ; forasmuch as ye know that your Labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

AND now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of his Glory ; to the only Wise GOD our Saviour, be Glory and Honour, Dominion and Might henceforth and forever.

A M E N.



A N  
A P P E N D I X,  
C O N T A I N I N G   T H E

ACT of INCORPORATION of the HUMANE SOCIETY  
of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS, and the RULES  
and REGULATIONS of said SOCIETY since their INCOR-  
PORATION ; with the METHODS of TREATMENT  
in CASES of APPARENT DEATH, COMMUNICA-  
TIONS, TREASURER's ACCOUNTS, CATALOGUE  
of MEMBERS, &c. &c.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one.*

An ACT to incorporate and establish a SOCIETY by the name of the HU-  
MANE SOCIETY of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

*W*H E R E A S it is the duty of Government at all times, to countenance and support its citizens, in their exertions for alleviating the distresses of their fellow-men : And whereas divers persons have petitioned this Court, for an act of incorporation, whereby they may more effectually carry into execution, their benevolent designs :

*B*e it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq. Jonathan Mason, Esq. John Warren, M. D. Rev. Simeon Howard, D.D. Rev. Samuel Parker, D. D. John Avery, jun. Esq. Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. Rev. Peter Thacher, Rev. John Clarke, Doctor Thomas Welsh, Aaron Dexter, M. D. and Mr. Nathaniel Balch, together with all those who now are, and such others who shall become members thereof, be, and they

are hereby erected into, and made a body politic corporate forever, by the name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said Corporation are hereby declared and made capable in law, of having, holding, purchasing and taking in fee-simple, or any less estate, by gift, grant, devise or otherwise, any lands, tenements or other estate, real and personal ; (provided that the annual income of said real and personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of four thousand pounds)—and also to sell, alien, devise or dispose of the same estate, real and personal, not using the same in trade or commerce.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said Corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure ; that it shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all Courts of record or other Courts or places whatsoever, in all actions real, personal and mixed, and to do and execute all and singular other matters and things, that to them shall and may appertain to do.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said Corporation may make, establish and put in execution, such laws and regulations as may be necessary to the government of said Corporation, provided the same shall in no case be repugnant to the laws and constitution of this State. And for the well governing of the said Corporation, and the ordering their affairs, they shall have such officers as they shall hereafter from time to time, elect and appoint ; and such officers as shall be designated by the laws and regulations of the said Corporation for the purpose, shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the said Corporation, and calling and holding such occasional meetings for that purpose, as shall be fixed and determined by the said laws and regulations.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the end and design of the institution of the said Society, is for the recovery of persons who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means from time to time, as shall have for their object, the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.

And

*And be it further enacted,* That the place where the first meeting of the said Society shall be held, shall be the town of Boston; and that the Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq. be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to fix the time for holding the said meeting, and to notify the same to the members of the said Society, by causing the same to be published in one of the Boston newspapers, fourteen days before the time fixed on for holding the said meeting.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 21, 1791.

This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

DAVID COBB, Speaker,

In SENATE, February 23, 1791.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, President.

By the Governor,

Approved,

JOHN HANCOCK.

Attest,

JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec,



The INSTITUTION of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the  
COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS,

**F**ROM a variety of faithful experiments, and incontestable facts, it is now considered as an established truth, that the total suspension of the vital functions in the animal body is by no means incompatible with life, and consequently the marks of apparent death may subsist without any necessary implication of an absolute extinction of the animating principle. The boundary line between life and death, or the distinguishing signs of the latter, are objects to which the utmost efforts of the human capacity have never yet attained. Nor can we with any degree of certainty, pronounce that an animal is dead, until the most unequivocal proofs of putrefaction, have been furnished. From these facts it might reasonably be expected,

expected, that were proper measures to be adopted, especially in cases peculiarly doubtful, we might frequently be enabled to restore to full life, and the enjoyment of it, a beloved friend, or a valuable member of society. And indeed numerous successful instances might be adduced in the cases of persons, who would in a few hours have been consigned to an untimely grave, and perhaps have suffered all the horrors of inevitable death, attended with a consciousness of their own terrible situation. It is not, however, to be understood, that any process directed to the above mentioned purpose can be equally applicable to all cases : for as the attempt must presuppose an entire state of the vital organs, it is obvious that those apparent deaths which are consequent upon disease, afford in general, little or no encouragement for such attempts. But in most cases of sudden death, the vital organs appear to have sustained but a very slight injury, and only require a seasonable excitement of the heart to renew their action.

THE exquisite feelings attendant on the unexpected restoration of an affectionate friend, or an indulgent parent, a dutiful child, or an intimate companion of our bosoms, after having been suddenly torn from us, and, in imagination, numbered with the dead, may be more easily conceived than described, nor is the acquisition of one deserving member of society an object unworthy the public attention.

UPON these considerations Societies have been formed in various parts of Europe, for promoting attempts to recover persons from apparent death, especially in cases of suffocation and drowning. The Humane Society established in Great Britain, in 1774, has been very successful. Within ten years from its institution, out of 1304 persons apparently dead, from drowning, 790 have been restored to their friends and country :\* Many of them, no doubt, useful and valuable men. For an institution of this nature a considerable fund is necessary, and many occasional expenses will unavoidably occur. The cause of humanity, however, deserves every encouragement. And to promote that cause it is to be hoped the benevolent will liberally subscribe. For these salutary purposes the Legislature of this Commonwealth, by their act passed the last session, have been pleased to incorporate a Society, by the Name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with ample powers ; and the following regulations and arrangements are submitted, by the society, to the inspection of the public.

## RULES

\* By the annual Report of 1797, it appears, that 2198 Lives have been preserved and restored, since the establishment of the Royal Humane Society,

RULES for the REGULATION of the *HUMANE SOCIETY* of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS, instituted in the Town of *Boston*, for the recovery of persons, who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means, from time to time, as shall have for their object the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.

## I.

THAT the officers of the society shall consist of a number of Trustees, not exceeding twelve, of whom one shall be President, two Vice Presidents, one Treasurer, one Recording Secretary and one Corresponding Secretary.

## II.

THAT the society shall meet twice every year, viz. on the second Tuesday in *December*, and the second Tuesday in *June*; but that the President, with the advice of the Trustees, shall be empowered to call a meeting whenever the business of the society shall require it.

## III.

THAT the President and Trustees shall be annually elected, by ballot, on the second Tuesday in *December*.

## IV.

THAT the Recording Secretary shall keep a fair copy of all the votes and proceedings of the society, and record all such cases and communications as the Trustees shall direct.

## V.

THAT the Corresponding Secretary shall write all letters relating to the business of the society, and shall write answers to all such letters as the society shall receive, they being previously communicated to the President and Trustees assembled.

## VI.

THAT the President and Trustees, a major part of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall, during the vacation between the semiannual meetings of the society, have the care and management of the concerns and funds of the society, regulate the mode of receiving the annual subscriptions, adjudge the premiums due agreeably to the rules of the society, and no monies shall be paid by the Treasurer without their order, signed by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice President.

## VII.

ALL property belonging to the society, whether by donation, or otherwise, shall be held in the name of the society, and remain in the hands of the Treasurer, and in case of his death be delivered to the President, until a new Treasurer shall be chosen.

## VIII.

## VIII.

THAT any person, desirous to become a member of this society, shall be nominated by a member of the same, to the Trustees, a majority of whom shall determine his election.

## IX.

EACH member shall annually pay into the hands of the Treasurer a sum not less than *one dollar and ten cents*, and any person refusing to pay for three years successively said sum, or his subscription, shall no longer be considered as a member of the society, and his name shall be erased from the catalogue.

## X.

THAT a catalogue of the members, with the sums they annually contribute, with the rules of the society, shall once in three years be published, and distributed among the members; together with an account of all donations received during said term, and such other papers as the Trustees shall think proper.

## XI.

THAT such gentlemen of the faculty, as shall engage to afford their assistance towards promoting the views of the society, shall do it gratis.

## XII.

THAT when any accident shall happen, producing apparent death, the person who shall first discover, and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to receive a sum not exceeding *ten dollars*, nor less than *one dollar*, to be paid in such manner as the Trustees shall think best.

## XIII.

THAT the Trustees be empowered to make such compensations as they shall think proper, to any one, who shall receive into his house the body of a person apparently dead, with a view that means may be used for his recovery.

## XIV.

THAT any person who shall, by a singular exertion, save another from death, shall receive a sum not exceeding *ten dollars*, to be paid in such manner as the trustees shall think proper.

## XV.

THAT the Trustees shall appoint some person to deliver a public discourse on the second Tuesday of June every year, upon some subject connected with the principal objects of this society, and that there be a collection, for the benefit of the Society, upon that day.

## XVI.

## XVI.

THAT the Treasurer shall annually exhibit his accounts to the Society, and whensoever the funds of the said society will admit of a compensation for his services, that he shall give bonds to the society for the faithful performance of his trust.

## XVII.

THE President and Trustees may, at their discretion, at any monthly meeting, admit such persons as honorary members of this Society, as will in their opinion, have a tendency to add respectability to the society, or be the means of promoting its benevolent intentions, provided that such persons are not inhabitants of this Commonwealth, and the votes of three fourths of the Trustees are in favour of such admission ; any thing in the ninth article to the contrary notwithstanding.

*OCCIDIT QUI NON SERVAT.*

METHODS of TREATMENT to be used with Persons apparently Dead from Drowning.

ALTHOUGH the following methods are chiefly adapted to cases of apparent death from drowning, yet the Society think it proper to observe, that most of the means of restoration herein recommended are applicable to a considerable variety of other cases, such as hanging, convulsion fits, suffocation by damps, or noxious vapours, the confined air of wells, cisterns, caves, or the must of fermenting liquors.—The Society have in some of the more essential articles of treatment, followed the recommendations of Foreign Societies of a similar nature ; they have however endeavoured to render them more conformable to the particular circumstances of this country.

I.  
THE unfortunate person is to be conveyed carefully to the nearest house : For this purpose the head is to be raised a little, as in bed, and the body should be carried in a natural and easy posture.

## II.

THE subject is to be immediately stripped, and laid on a warm bed, and the skin well dried with heated flannels, the mud and froth to be removed from the mouth and nostrils ; if the body was naked at the time of the accident, it is then to be surrounded as expeditiously as possible with a hot blanket, and thoroughly dried with coarse cloths or flannels.

## III.

## III.

The smoke of tobacco thrown up the fundament should be ranked among the earliest applications : If a *fumigator* should not be at hand, the common pipe† will answer the purpose of applying this vapour to the bowels. So easy and important an operation should be repeatedly performed, as the good effects of tobacco smoke have been proved in many cases.

## IV.

The skin is to be gently rubbed with warm woolen cloths, and a warming pan heated (the body being surrounded with flannel) may lightly be moved up and down the back for a considerable time. Wooden bottles filled with hot water, &c. or *heated bricks* covered with flannel, may be efficaciously applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and other parts of the body.

## V.

If a child has been drowned, its body should be wiped perfectly dry, and immediately placed in bed between two persons of good constitution ; the salutary effects of the natural vital warmth have been clearly proved in a variety of successful cases.

## VI.

The body is to be rubbed with flannels, sprinkled with spirits, and fomentations of hot rum are to be applied to the breast, &c. and often renewed. The nostrils may be every now and then tickled with a feather ; *snuff* and *volatiles* should be occasionally made use of, to excite sneezing if possible. The various means of recovery should be made use of by the assistants for several hours ; the body is to be gently shaken every ten minutes, in order to render the process more certainly successful ; and the bodies of children in particular are to be agitated, by taking hold of their arms and legs frequently, and for a continuance of time. In a variety of instances agitation, in conjunction with the methods laid down, has forwarded the recovery of boys who had been drowned, and continued for a considerable time apparently dead.

## VII.

If there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, convulsive motions, pulsation or a natural warmth, a spoonful of any warm-liquid may be administered ; and if it proves that the power of swallowing is returned, then a cordial draught may be given in small quantities, but not without the direction of a physician.

## VIII.

† When the common pipe is used, the smoke is to be blown with the mouth from the bowl, through the stem, into the fundament, covering the bowl with a hand-kerchief, or thin piece of linen.

## VIII.

When the air is very *cold* or *moist*, the various methods of treatment are to be made use of *near a large fire*, or in a *heated apartment*. On the other hand, if the weather is *warm*, or *fusty*, (as in the summer season) the windows and doors of the room should be opened ; and in every other possible way, a cool refreshing air obtained ; as it is of the greatest importance in bringing forward the latent spark of life, or in restoring natural breathing.

## IX.

No persons are to be admitted into the room, but those who are actually employed in exerting their utmost endeavours for the recovery of the unfortunate ; six persons are, therefore, the greatest number that can ever prove useful on such occasions ; and those who are bystanders, for the sake of curiosity, should be requested to withdraw, as their presence may retard, or totally prevent the restoration.

*Bleeding is never to be employed in such cases, unless by the direction of one of the medical assistants, or some other respectable gentleman of the faculty, who has paid attention to such unfortunate accidents.*

The methods which have been so fully recommended, are to be made use of with vigour for several hours, although no favourable circumstances should arise ; for it is a vulgar and dangerous opinion, to suppose that persons are irrecoverable, because life does not soon make its appearance ; and upon this opinion, an immense number of the seemingly dead, have been committed to the grave ; who might have been RESTORED TO LIFE, by *resolution* and *perseverance* in the plans of treatment now recommended.



The SOCIETY have received the following COMMUNICATIONS,  
since their last Publication.

## I.

Letter from *WILLIAM HAWES, M.D. Register of the Royal Humane Society  
in LONDON, to the Corresponding Secretary.*

*REVEREND SIR,*

LONDON, Spital Square, July 28, 1797.

**B**Y the kindness of Mr. *Avery* I received your obliging letter with some copies of Dr. *ROBINS's* ingenious discourse preached before the Humane Society.—It cannot but afford me and the Managers of the Royal Humane Society a peculiar degree of satisfaction to find that an Institution, replete with so much benefit to the State, is fixed upon a solid and permanent basis.

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To a mind warmed by a general philanthropy, humanized by philosophy, and enlightened by Christianity, there cannot be a nobler object to contemplate, than that of the restoration of a fellow-creature to the blessings of existence ; besides the signal advantage conferred upon the individual by so transcendent an act of benevolence, it advances in an eminent degree the Medical Science.

May your efforts in the cause of Humanity be crowned with success ; and the Society, of which you are so worthy a member, continue to abridge the triumphs of death.—I have delayed sending the annual Report, on purpose to embrace the opportunity of presenting your Society with Dr. GREGORY's Sermon on a subject of the utmost importance to individuals and the public.—You will have the goodness to dispose of them according to your judgment, and permit me to wish you and the benevolent friends of the Massachusetts Humane Society, every happiness which this world can afford.

I am, Reverend Sir,  
Your very humble servant,

*Rev. Dr. Parker.*

WILLIAM HAWES.

## II.

*The following Communication was made to the Trustees by several respectable Gentlemen, some of whom were spectators of the melancholy Scene.*

THE Proprietors of the Boston Pier, finding it would be convenient for the shipping to be supplied with water on the spot, undertook to have a Well dug on said Pier, and had advanced to the depth of 30 feet.\* July 27, 1797, one of the workmen coming out of the well, as the tide began to make into it, complained of faintness, and supposed it proceeded from having overworked himself. The well was then covered over, and heavy weights laid upon the top to prevent the curb from rising. Soon after Mr. Timothy Tileston, the master-workman, went down into the well, contrary to the advice of some persons present, who apprehended danger from the flowing in of the tide. But supposing his stay would be but short, he proceeded, and had not been down more than a minute or two, than the mephitic air of the well suffocated him, and he fell speechless. Samuel Bunting, one of his workmen, finding Mr. Tileston thus affected, let himself down by a rope, and as he was making it fast to Tileston's body, was seized in the same manner. William Hancock, a sailor from Penobscot, passing by and seeing the two unhappy men in this situation, instantly let himself down by the same rope that Bunting did, and had no sooner reached the bottom, than he met the same unhappy fate ; and all

\* The first stratum, of about 15 feet, was through the made ground of the wharf. The next of 12 feet, consisted of clay and earth, then a stratum of marsh mud, unconsumed roots, intermixed with shells and marine productions, which, on being disturbed, yielded an uncommon fetid smell.

all three lay to appearance dead, and must have expired before assistance could have been given them, had it not been for the self-possession and consideration of Mr. *Jonathan Balch*, pump-maker, who had the presence of mind to fasten a large mat to a tub or bucket, with the ends loose, and therewith fanned the well, and by diluting the air, rendered it so pure as to prevent an entire suffocation. Still the unhappy persons were in danger not only of complete suffocation, but of drowning from the inlet of the water by the flowing tide. Mr. *Jonathan Cooper*, mate of the brig *Sally of Wells*, seeing the confusion, ran to the well just as *Hancock* had fallen, and would have instantly gone to relieve them, and must doubtless have shared their fate. But the same Mr. *Balch* very judiciously took the precaution to make him fast to a tub by which he was lowered down, that in case he failed he might be instantly drawn up. Mr. *Tileston* was then drawn up by the rope which *Bunting* had made fast to his body; *Bunting* and *Hancock* were brought up one at a time by Mr. *Cooper*. When taken out of the well, Mr. *Tileston* had scarcely the appearance of life, and was considerably bruised, he was incapable of moving a limb, and when able to speak, his intellects appeared much deranged.\* A dose of castor oil and elixir salutis was administered in the afternoon, which did not operate till the evening, during which time he continued cold, but upon the operation of the oil he expressed himself much relieved, was able to walk, and though for two or three days he felt a great oppression at his breast, in four or five he returned to his labour.

*Bunting*, who when taken out of the well and for some hours after appeared the worst, and had the smallest symptoms of life, was restored by the assistance of several medical gentlemen, who pursued the means recommended by this Society, and felt but little inconvenience after that day.

*The case of William Hancock is thus related by a Gentleman of the faculty who attended him.*

On his being first drawn from the well (in which process he fell twice from the hold or hook giving way) *William Hancock*, who was the last that fell from mephitic air, recovered his breath so as to be able to relate the circumstances of his adventure, and proposed walking home. In a few moments, however, he faltered, became faint, and was laid in the store of Mr. *Perkins*. In about one hour when I first saw him, his respiration was very imperfectly performed, the faintness continued with pain in the breast, and great pain or oppression in the cardiac region. Friction which had been faithfully applied, and was continued for more than two hours, wine, brandy, and volatile spirits mixed with water were administered, hot fomentations were

\* He was supposed to have been in the Well and in a state of apparent death, 20 or 30 minutes.

were applied to the feet, which were exceedingly cold, as were the hands and the whole surface of the body—and, excepting a temporary exertion and relief from the stimulus of the volatiles, which were given in uncommonly large doses, no sensible effect or relief was produced.

After three hours he was removed to his lodgings in a carriage, where almost the same degree of pain, difficult respiration and faintness, with pain in the chest, accompanied him together with a degree of coldness in the extremities and surface of the body.

A gentle emetic was then given with a view of diffusing the blood to the extremities, and so by revulsion to relieve the chest, which afforded some relief, but as it was not essential or adequate, he was bled in the evening; this operation produced a more decided effect, and his respiration was immediately mended.

On the morning of the next day, the bleeding was repeated, and half an ounce of cathartic salts were given. In the evening, although he was essentially relieved, still the pain in the breast, a high and laborious respiration continuing, he was bled the third time and more largely than before; and the effect was immediate and appeared to be adequate to his recovery.

On the third day, the same quantity of salts were repeated, he was confined to cooling drink, and fruit for his diet.—On the fourth day he drank the elixir vitriol with water, his pain in the breast gradually subsided, he raised blood by coughing—and on the fifth and sixth and seventh days his respiration became easy and natural, and he gradually, but slowly recovered.

By attending to the symptoms in this case, it is evident that from the faintness, coldness of the extremities and surface of the body, high and difficult respiration (more difficult than is usual or easy to be described) pain in the breast and at the scrofuliculum cordis, together with the subsequent spitting of blood, there was a mechanical obstruction of the blood, occasioned by a collapse of the lungs, the heart and great arteries became turgid and distended, lost their contractile power to such a degree, that when respiration was at first imperfectly restored, they had not the power to give the blood a momentum sufficient to carry it through the lungs, much less to propel it to the extremities.

In this case, neither the frictions, which were long and faithfully continued, nor the stimulants taken into the stomach, nor the partial warmth communicated to the feet, produced any sensible effect—but the patient was relieved by being placed in bed, by a gentle emetic, and above all, by large and repeated bleedings, assisted with moderate and repeated purges, or in other words, by those applications and remedies, which relieved the bursting, rather the oppressed heart, and large arteries from their distension,

tion, and so enabled them to reassume their action and restore the equilibrium of the circulation.—And if this be true, is not the first indication, in all cases of suffocation from the mephitic air of wells or cisterns, the fumes of charcoal, or drowning, to give this relief, by opening those blood vessels nearest the heart and within the practability of operation?—With the same intention, ought not the whole body, or at least the lower parts of it, to be placed in the warm bath (wet or dry as shall be thought most eligible) immediately and as the first, safest and most practicable expedient? the frictions may be continued at the same time:—But I confess, when I have in several instances seen ineffectual frictions continued for hours on extremities as cold as clods, and which no friction could warm, I have thought that warmth without friction would have been preferable.

The Trustees rewarded Mr. *Hancock* and Mr. *Bunting*, with ten dollars each, and Mr. *Cooper*, with ten dollars and a silver medal.

### III.

*A Letter from the Honorable Judge Sewall, of York, to the Reverend Dr. Parker, contains the following remarkable instance of drowning and reanimation in Scarborough in the County of Cumberland, and District of Maine.*

ON 17th July, 1797, several boys, neither of whom had learned to swim, returning from school at noon, went into the river to bathe, at a place called Blackpoint cause-way. It being near the last of the ebb tide, they waded down, for some length of way the deepest water of the channel, which, at that time of tide, did not exceed two and an half feet in depth. *John Hasty*, a lad of about fifteen years of age, an only son of Major *William Hasty* of Scarborough, was the oldest and largest of the children, and took the lead, until he came to a place, which from the softness of the bottom, or some other cause, deepened by a perpendicular descent to seven or eight feet, called the deep hole—a place unknown to the lads. Into this hole, where the depth of water continued some distance, *Hasty* slipped before he perceived the water to deepen; and had the children all waded abreast, it is probable, they would have been in the same predicament. His companions, at first, concluded that he was in sport, and that he meant to surprize them: But they were soon undeceived. Halting, they saw him rise nearly half his length out of the water, and then sink again. Soon after they saw the back part of his head above the water, which again disappeared; and when he rose a third time, they saw the tops of his fingers only. These several appearances convinced them that he had ventured into water deeper than his own height, and that he was actually drowning.

The

The children were unable to afford him personal assistance. *Simon Libby*, one of the number, who was perhaps twelve years of age, and who had not been in the water, ran therefore, for assistance towards the house of *Thomas Libby*; and seeing some persons at a distance in the field, passed the house and carried the information to them. *John Green*, another of the children, and of the age of the last mentioned, left the water in which he had been wading, put on his shirt and trowsers; ran to the house of the same *Libby*, which was half a mile distant, and called for help. *Silas Libby*, a youth of about nineteen years of age, was sitting in the house, and amusing himself with a violin. No sooner was he acquainted with the melancholly event, than he ran to the cause-way, where he found one of the children only, *John Beals*, standing on the point. Informed by him where the lad disappeared, and making some allowance for the influence of the tide, *Silas Libby* plunged headlong into the water seven or eight feet deep, and passed over the body, just touching it with his toes. The water being disturbed, he could not at first discern the body; but, turning round under water, he at length discovered the lad lying on his face, with his arms extended, and his face immerged to the ears in mud. He then took the body in his arms, and conveyed it to the shore.

When *Silas Libby*'s father came within hearing, he inquired of him what was to be done, for that the lad was dead. The father told him to toss the body up and down in the air, which he did till he came to his assistance. The drowned lad's countenance was as dark as that of any mulatto. They then placed the head downwards, and stroaked the belly, upon which water issued from the mouth, nose and ears, and clotted blood from the nostrils. By this time, Mrs. *Libby* came to the place; and putting off a petticoat, spread it on the marsh; and the body was laid on it. At this moment *Thomas Libby*, the father of *Silas*, imagined that he perceived symptoms of life. Major *William Hasty*, the drowned lad's father, was then sent for. He was at the distance of a mile and an half. The body, in the mean time, which was perfectly supple, was removed to the house of *Thomas Libby*.

When the father of the lad arrived, he found the body placed on a barrel, which some of the persons assembled were rolling. Of this rolling he disapproved, having lately read the directions of the Humane Society, relative to the treatment proper in cases of drowning. He therefore directed that a bed should be warmed; that the body should be wrapped in blankets; and that it should be rubbed with warm cloths wet with rum (the only spirit then at hand) and sprinkled with fine salt. The jaws were set. It was noticed, that when the body was at rest, the symptoms of reanimation disappeared; but that they returned when the body was tossed up and down in an erect posture.

Soon after the father's arrival, Mr. Rice, the nearest physician was sent for. His house was five and a quarter miles distant; but his benevolent zeal brought him to the place sooner than was expected. Thirty minutes and an half only elapsed from the time Major Libby went in quest of him until the Doctor arrived.\*—A vein was opened and the lad bled freely; Tobacco smoke was blown by means of a pipe through the anus into the bowels; upon which, for the first time, the lad drew a long breath. Two glisters were successively administered: It was, however, several hours before they had a visible operation. Brandy being procured by direction of the physician, the body was washed with it, and a teaspoonful of it, mixed with water, was administered internally every two or three minutes. The father then undressed himself, went to bed, and embraced the lad, whose body was wrapped round with flannel and baize, wet with brandy and covered with salt. At frequent intervals the lad was taken out of bed, and tossed up and down in the air; which was found to be very serviceable. In six hours he spake, but incoherently. In nine hours his reason appeared at intervals. In two or three days he walked abroad; but it was fourteen days before the lad's health and agility were perfectly restored. In the month of November, he had no recollection of any thing which took place on the seventeenth of July, the day on which the accident happened.

In his letter, Judge Sewall expresses the utmost confidence in the veracity of the persons who furnished him with the facts. According to his calculation, the lad was certainly fifteen minutes, probably between twenty and thirty minutes under water. The persons, who so signally exerted themselves, and with so much success, he recommends to the particular attention of the Humane Society. A conviction of their merits induced the Trustees to vote ten Dollars to Silas Libby, a Medal to Major Libby, two Dollars to Simon Libby, and the same sum to John Green and John Beals, for their respective exertions.

## THE

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\* Major Josiah Libby took a horse that was providentially passing by, and, as his pasture lay on the road to the Doctor's, discovering his own horse not far from the highway, and determining that if he injured a horse on this important errand, it should be his own and not another's, dismounted, catched his own horse, leaped him over the fence, changed the bridle and saddle, and proceeded to Dr. Rice's, whom he found standing at his door, and a horse ready saddled. After acquainting him with the urgent occasion of his coming, the Doctor mounted his horse, and in 30 minutes and an half from the departure of Major Libby arrived on the spot. The latter called on his way back at a retailer's and procured some brandy, to be used on the occasion, and arrived with the same 2 minutes after the Doctor. From these circumstances it appears that Major Libby rode ten and an half miles, and over a long steep sandy hill, called Scottoway's hill, in Scarborough, in 32 minutes and an half, including the delay occasioned by changing his horse and tackling, and procuring the brandy. An uncommon instance of celerity and success!

THE Trustees of the Humane Society, having in their private capacity, been informed of several instances of persons who had incurred apparent death by drowning or otherwise, and been fortunately recovered by the means recommended by the Society, and no communication made thereof; and convinced that publishing the circumstances of such incidents would be attended with beneficial effects, hereby request the citizens of this commonwealth, and particularly the gentlemen in the Medical line, to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary, all the instances that have or shall come to their knowledge, of reanimation, and the means whereby those happy events are accomplished, with such other particulars of the time respiration was suspended, &c. as they shall think of importance to notice: As it is by comparing the success of different means and operations, that this important art can be brought to perfection.—The Trustees are also desirous of extending the rewards promised by the Society for signal exertions throughout the Commonwealth, and for this reason they request information of all attempts of reanimation even if they prove unsuccessful.

N. B. The Trustees request the same favour from the citizens of the neighbouring States.

*An Extract from the Minutes of said Trustees,*

JOHN AVERY, Recording Sec'y.

*PREMIUMS adjudged by the TRUSTEES,  
since June, 1797. Dollars*

To James Gregory, for saving a Child	4
To William Hancock and Samuel Bunting, for attempting to save the life of Mr. Tileston, who was suffocated in a Well upon the Boston Pier, 10 Dollars each,	20
To Jonathan Cooper, for bringing up said Tileston, Hancock and Bunting, who were also suffocated in their attempt to save Tileston, 10 Dollars, and a silver medal 4 Dollars,	14
To John Goffe, for saving from drowning, a child of Capt. Lord,	4
To Seth Allen, for ditto, a child of Mary Barnes,	5
To Jesse Bray, for ditto, a child of Samuel Ash,	3
To Benjamin Shelton, for saving a man from drowning,	3
To Adam Smith, for saving two children at Hancock's Wharf.	8
To John Wyer, for taking Jotham Horton out of the water,	4
To William Nickells, for saving a boy,	1

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To Silas Libby, for taking up a son of Maj. Hasty of Scarboro'	10
To Simon Libby, John Green and John Beals, for calling assistance in the above case, 2 Dollars each,	6
To Major Libby, for his uncommon dispatch in procuring a Physician for the above case, a silver medal,	6
To John Dickson, for saving William Willen, who had fallen through the ice,	3
To Wilson Adlington, for saving the life of Francis Whiston,	6
To Joseph Eaton and Seth Nason, for saving a woman who had leaped from Treat's wharf,	4

Dols. 101

*State of the Treasurer's Accounts for the Year past.*

	Dols:	Cts:
To Printing Dr. Fleet's discourse, notifications and expences of semiannual meeting,	57	11
Premiums paid,	101	
Jacob Kuhn's salary,	30	
200 Dollars Union Bank stock,	243	75
2 Shares in West Boston Bridge,	417	17
Balance in Treasurer's hands.	53	96

Dols. 902      99

	Contra Cr.	Dols.	Cts.
1797.	By balance in the Treasurer's hands at last audit,	243	75
June 13.	By Collection at semiannual meeting,	57	49
	Interest on funded stock and dividends at Bank,	310	28
	Subscriptions of Members.	291	47

Dols. 902      99

*Property belonging to the Society.*

United States 6 per Cent.	1442	17
Ditto 3 per Cent.	708	83
Ditto deferred,	46	60
Massachusetts State Notes 5 per Cent.	2113	71
Union Bank stock,	768	
West Boston Bridge 2 Shares,	417	17
Malden Bridge 1 Share,	140	
Deferred stock accumulating fund for said Share;	287	98

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We

We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee by the Humane Society, to examine the accounts of Rev. Dr. Parker, Treasurer of said Society, do find the same well vouched and right cast, and that a balance in favour of the Society remains in the hands of said Treasurer, of 53 Dols. 96 Cents in cash, and also the evidences of the property specified above.

Boston, June 8, 1798.

Nathaniel Appleton,  
John Hancock,

} Committee.

*OFFICERS of the HUMANE SOCIETY, chosen Dec. 1797.*

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Rev. SIMEON HOWARD, D.D. Second Vice President.

Rev. SAMUEL PARKER, D.D. Treasurer.

JOHN AVERY, Esq; Recording Secretary.

Rev. JOHN LATHROP, D.D. Corresp. Sec'y, pro tempore.

Rev. PETER THACHER, D.D.

Doct. THOMAS WELSH,

AARON DEXTER, M.D.

NATHANIEL BALCH, Esq;

JEREMIAH ALLEN, Esq;

} TRUSTEES,

MEMBERS deceased since the last Publication of the Names.

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Rev. John Clarke, D.D. Corresp. Sec. Hon. Caleb Davis,

Nathaniel Appleton, Esq. Alexander Hodgdon, Esq,

Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D. D.

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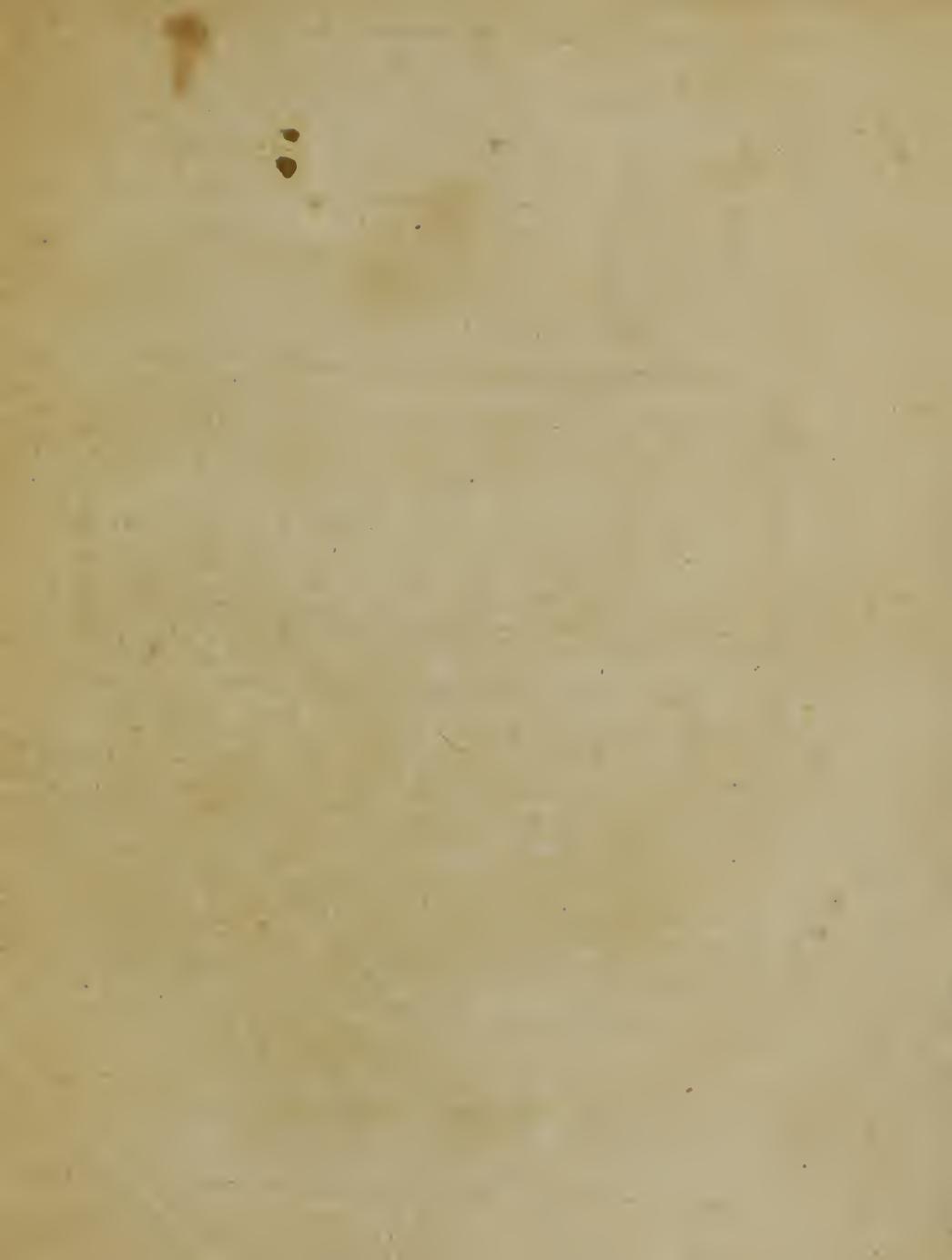


*SUMMARY of the METHOD of TREATMENT to be used with  
Persons apparently dead from drowning; as approved by the Humane  
Society of this Commonwealth, and published by desire of the Trustees.*

**C**ONVEY the person to the nearest convenient house, with his head raised: Strip and dry him as quick as possible; clean the mouth and nostrils from froth and mud—If a child, let him be placed between two persons naked, in a hot bed—If an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near a fire—in warm weather, the air should be freely admitted into the room. The body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woolen cloths sprinkled with spirits, if at hand, otherwise dry: A heated warming pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently shook every few minutes: Whilst these means are using, one or two assistants are to be employed in blowing up tobacco smoke into the fundament, with the instrument provided for the purpose, or a tobacco pipe, if that cannot be had—the bowl filled with tobacco and properly lighted, being covered with a handkerchief, or piece of linen, so as to defend the mouth of the assistant in blowing: Bathe the breast with hot rum, and persist in the use of these means for several hours. If no signs of life should then appear, let the body be kept warm several hours longer, with hot bricks, or vessels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and soles of the feet, and this for a longer or shorter time, as the circumstances of the case may dictate.

The too customary method of rolling on a barrel, suspending by the feet, and every other violent mode of agitation, particularly in removing the body from the water, should be most carefully avoided.





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